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THE PLAGUE SITUATION.

PORTO RICO.

Since August 27 four cases of plague have been reported in Porto Rico. A case in San Juan reported as suspicious on August 29 was finally diagnosed as plague on September 2; one case occurred in Santurce September 3, one case in San Juan September 4, and one in Santurce September 5. This makes the total number of cases reported to the present time 53. Since July 19 no case has occurred outside the municipality of San Juan, which includes the old city of San Juan, Puerta de Tierra, and Santurce.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

From July 17 to August 28, 2,978 rats were collected in New Orleans. Of these, 2,976 were examined to ascertain the presence of plague. The only plague-infected rat which has been found was the one reported on July 27, as having been caught on the water front. This rat, however, had been caught 11 days before—that is, on July 18.

CALIFORNIA.

In California plague still persists among the ground squirrels, and among those caught each week are usually found some infected ones. Recently these have all been found in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. No human case of plague, however, has occurred in California since September 18, 1911—that is, nearly a year ago. This case occurred in San Joaquin County. It has now been nearly three years since a plague-infected rat has been found in either San Francisco or Oakland. To protect these cities from reinfection of the rats by the infected ground squirrels in the surrounding rural territory, a squirrel-free zone has been maintained around the cities on San Francisco Bay. This zone is maintained free from squirrels by shooting, poisoning, and constant policing.

FOREIGN.

The principal foreign places where plague is now epidemic are certain Chinese ports, of which the more important are Amoy and Hong-kong; lower Egypt, India, the Island of Formosa, certain localities in Persia and certain localities in Russia. In South America cases have recently occurred in Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, and Venezuela. The disease is also present on the Island of Trinidad, and in South Africa in Durban and vicinity.